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# News Release

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## Study on Synchronized Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for Substance Use Disorder

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – A research scientist and staff psychologist at the VA RR&D Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology at the Providence VA Medical Center, and Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University, received an award July 1 for a two-year research study from the VA Office of Rehabilitation Research and Development.

Dr. John McGeary's project, titled "Synchronized Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for Substance Use-Disordered Veterans," will evaluate the acceptability, tolerability and safety of synchronized TMS as a potential treatment for substance use disorders.

The nearly $200,000 study will allow McGeary and his team at the Providence VA Medical Center, which includes leaders in neurostimulation – Dr. Noah Philip, chief of Psychiatric Neuromodulation – and addiction treatment – Dr. Robert Swift, chief of Mental Health and Behavioral Science Services – to take key first steps to developing a potential new treatment for opiate use disorder, cocaine use disorder, and alcohol use disorder.

"As the response to the COVID-19 pandemic created challenges for traditional forms of addiction treatment, it is more important than ever to develop new treatments, particularly ones that could be used in a home setting," said McGeary. "There are currently no FDA-approved treatments for cocaine use disorder, so this technology could be a critically important tool for treatment in these cases as well, if the research supports its use."

**- more -**

# Study on Synchronized TMS for Substance Use – 2 of 2

**Photo demonstrating the use of a Synchronized Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation device in a home setting (photo courtesy of Wave Neuroscience Inc.).**

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